



MI-CW3911

Michigan Crop Weather

September 26, 2011

Fall Harvest Underway

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ended September 25, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation ranged from 0.50 inches to 0.66 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 0.43 to 1.28 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures were normal to 2 degrees above normal in the Upper Peninsula, while temperatures in the Lower Peninsula ranged from 1 degree above normal to 3 degrees below normal. A few showers fell across the state, but fall harvest was in full swing. Moisture aided fall tillage efforts. Field activities included winter wheat planting, third and fourth cutting of hay, and harvesting of corn, silage, dry beans, potatoes, sugarbeets, apples, peaches, and various vegetable crops.

Field Crops

Corn continued to mature at a pace behind average, and was mainly in the R5 to R6 stage. A very small amount of corn was reported harvested. **Silage** harvest was going strong. Most of the **soybeans** have turned color, and continue to dry down. Harvest was expected to begin soon. **Alfalfa** harvest continued in some areas; growers were cutting for a third or fourth time. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued slowly. Dry field conditions were assuaged somewhat by rains. **Dry beans** were being harvested at a pace behind normal. **Winter wheat** planting was underway in some areas. Following soybean harvest, more growers will plant their wheat. **Potato** harvest continued with some potatoes being shipped directly from the field and others going directly into storage.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/25/11

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	3	27	61	9
Subsoil	4	29	62	5

Crop progress for week ending 09/25/11

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, third cutting	87	80	87	84
All hay, fourth cutting	27	21	48	32
Apples, harvested	34	19	60	26
Corn, dent	90	78	100	92
Corn, mature	35	17	88	59
Corn silage, harvested	65	48	95	72
Dry beans, turning leaves	98	93	100	98
Dry beans, dropping leaves	92	76	99	90
Dry beans, harvested	33	14	74	53
Peaches, harvested	95	90	100	97
Potatoes, harvested	40	28	36	41
Soybeans, turning leaves	83	57	97	90
Soybeans, dropping leaves	46	21	83	63
Sugarbeets, harvested	7	2	20	8
Winter wheat, planted	11	2	17	18

Fruit

Harvest of Gala **apples** neared completion; harvest of Honeycrisp continued. McIntosh, Empire and Jonathan picking began. Fall **raspberry** harvest was past its peak. Niagara **grape** harvest was continued; Concord harvest will commence about October 1. Niagara yields have been very high and quality has been good. Wine grape ripening in the northwest has been slowed by intermittent cloudy, cool and rainy weather. Harvest of early cultivars and grapes for sparkling wine has begun.

Vegetables

Most vegetable harvest was winding down for the season. Growers began removing plastic and working fields. Rains stopped harvest in some areas. In general, late harvest continued on **peppers**, **watermelon**, **squash**, and **tomatoes**. **Pumpkin** and **winter squash** harvest is in full swing. Cucurbit growers have been battling powdery mildew this year. A report in central Michigan states, "Most squash, pumpkin, and gourd patches have succumbed to powdery mildew." **Carrot** harvest continued as rains have benefitted the crop. **Cauliflower** and **broccoli** harvest continued, including broccoli for processing. **Snap beans** harvest is virtually complete.

Crop condition for week ending 09/25/11

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	4	8	25	51	12
Corn	3	7	23	51	16
Dry beans	4	12	28	39	17
Pasture	6	17	31	38	8
Soybeans	1	6	26	54	13

Percent of fall seasons (1971-2000) in which first freeze occurred on or before the date (mo/day) given in the table

Station	Earliest	90%	50%	10%	Latest
Alma	9/20	10/18	10/07	9/24	11/01
Alpena	8/29	10/08	9/24	9/15	10/10
Bad Axe	9/17	10/31	10/11	09/28	11/07
Caro	8/29	10/08	9/24	9/08	10/08
Coldwater	9/20	10/18	10/06	9/23	10/22
Eau Claire	10/02	11/05	10/20	10/08	11/10
Grand Rapids	9/23	10/19	10/09	9/25	11/01
Hesperia	9/04	10/12	9/24	9/07	10/19
Lansing	9/13	10/14	10/06	9/22	10/18
Lapeer	8/15	10/21	10/04	8/30	11/01
Marquette	8/31	10/03	9/22	9/07	10/14
Monroe	10/02	11/04	10/19	10/09	12/09
Saginaw	9/22	10/30	10/12	9/25	11/06
S.S. Marie	8/29	10/09	9/25	9/10	10/21
Standish	8/20	10/09	9/24	9/10	11/01
Stephenson	8/28	9/28	9/18	9/04	10/03
Traverse City	8/29	10/19	10/06	9/17	11/01

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/25/11 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2011	2010	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	68	39		2,059	2,181		0.49	1.18	1.70	15.17		
Marquette	68	40		2,017	2,118		0.95	1.85	2.44	16.31		
Stephenson	73	33		2,229	2,501		0.64	0.77	1.85	14.82		
Western UP	73	30	0	2,042	2,182	1,879	0.50	1.20	1.77	14.69	19.45	3.58
Cornell	68	42		2,219	2,397		0.67	1.59	2.10	14.18		
Sault St Marie	70	43		2,055	2,229		1.30	2.50	3.78	22.71		
Eastern UP	70	32	2	2,007	2,173	1,664	0.66	1.83	2.42	17.59	18.40	3.55
Beulah	70	41		2,408	2,636		1.08	1.97	2.84	22.91		
Lake City	72	40		2,312	2,471		0.62	1.13	1.69	20.60		
Old Mission	72	39		2,269	2,535		1.41	1.44	2.24	16.74		
Pellston	71	37		2,192	2,382		0.73	1.52	2.91	19.00		
Northwest	72	36	1	2,256	2,459	2,147	0.83	1.34	2.16	18.48	17.46	3.66
Alpena	73	39		2,219	2,463		1.40	1.52	2.70	22.18		
Houghton Lake	72	41		2,447	2,609		1.05	1.43	1.78	18.28		
Rogers City	72	35		2,066	2,310		1.11	1.39	1.60	15.51		
Northeast	73	35	1	2,266	2,489	2,076	1.28	1.56	2.18	19.10	17.37	3.47
Fremont	70	43		2,563	2,818		0.11	0.12	0.29	16.03		
Hart	71	43		2,431	2,708		1.20	1.29	1.97	16.44		
Muskegon	72	49		2,844	3,125		1.29	1.86	2.23	23.06		
West Central	72	33	0	2,539	2,823	2,345	0.80	1.01	1.50	18.96	17.58	3.19
Alma	74	42		2,550	2,897		0.61	1.00	1.19	26.31		
Big Rapids	73	38		2,420	2,713		0.58	0.58	1.24	28.65		
Central	74	38	0	2,507	2,793	2,420	0.43	0.55	1.03	23.10	18.32	3.09
Bad Axe	77	42		2,483	2,770		0.98	1.08	1.88	23.34		
Pigeon	78	43		2,443	2,728		1.35	1.35	1.54	18.20		
Saginaw	77	46		2,764	3,034		0.63	0.86	1.11	21.20		
Standish	74	41		2,372	2,666		0.64	1.07	1.17	22.92		
East Central	78	41	0	2,467	2,798	2,428	0.90	1.07	1.45	21.62	16.36	2.70
Fennville	75	43		2,612	2,925		0.71	0.79	1.07	21.88		
Grand Rapids	74	47		2,948	3,220		0.29	0.60	0.82	27.33		
Holland	70	47		3,713	3,194		1.27	2.00	2.31	29.75		
South Bend, IN	78	44		3,063	3,291		1.69	1.96	2.47	27.04		
Watervliet	75	44		2,812	3,106		1.02	1.19	1.64	24.06		
Southwest	78	33	-3	2,847	3,090	2,646	0.90	1.22	1.59	24.63	18.86	3.26
Belding	72	41		2,580	2,825		0.59	0.62	0.74	22.63		
Coldwater	76	44		2,830	3,126		0.85	1.13	2.57	18.36		
Lansing	76	44		2,786	3,122		0.54	0.98	1.26	23.56		
South Central	78	41	-2	2,682	2,996	2,598	0.71	1.08	1.81	23.97	18.51	2.79
Detroit	79	49		3,113	3,362		2.60	2.79	5.16	26.93		
Flint	78	40		2,856	3,086		0.53	0.89	1.19	24.94		
Romeo	78	44		2,723	2,953		0.85	1.70	3.50	22.48		
Tipton	77	42		2,814	3,027		1.87	2.35	4.07	24.25		
Toledo, OH	78	44		2,858	3,342		1.31	1.57	3.62	22.38		
Southeast	79	40	0	2,800	3,132	2,598	1.17	1.62	3.39	22.89	17.63	2.43

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.